

The diploma thesis “The environmental movement as a form of opposition in the German Democratic Republic” deals with the problems of forming the environmental movement in the totalitarian SED state. The research concerns the time from the end of the sixties, when environmentalism gained global attention in connection with the world debate over the crisis of the industrial societies, until the beginning of the nineties, when the GDR was dissolved by the reunification with the Federal Republic of Germany. Because the environmental movement was a component of East German dissent, the first part of the thesis gives an overview of opposition in the forty-year history of the GDR. The next section devotes itself to the state’s environmental policy in describing the general conditions for creation of the environmental movement. Then the work focuses on the independent environmental debate and its conversion to practical activities. The description of the actual ecological initiatives, activities and groups helps to explain the structure of the newly developing environmental movement. The last chapter concerns itself with the transformation of the independent environmental movement into a new political force and its role in the period of the peaceful revolution and German reunification of 1989/1990.